

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019**

**ITEM 7**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE CACHUMA PROJECT REGARDING CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S WATER RIGHT PERMITS 11308 AND 11310 (APPLICATIONS 11331 AND 11332) TO PROTECT PUBLIC TRUST VALUES AND DOWNSTREAM WATER RIGHTS ON THE SANTA YNEZ RIVER BELOW BRADBURY DAM (CACHUMA RESERVOIR).

**DISCUSSION**

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the proposed modifications to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) water right permits for the Cachuma Project (Cachuma Project). The State Water Board prepared and distributed a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) in August 2003, a Revised DEIR (RDEIR) in July 2007, and a second Revised DEIR (2<sup>nd</sup> RDEIR) in April 2011. The FEIR, released December 2011, is comprised of seven volumes: Volume I (Response to Comments); Volume II (Edited Version of 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> RDEIR); Volume III (Appendices A through D of 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> RDEIR); Volume IV (Appendices E through H of 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> RDEIR); Volume V (2003 DEIR); Volume VI (2007 RDEIR); and Volume VII (2011 2<sup>nd</sup> RDEIR as originally circulated).

The FEIR identifies the analyzed significant environmental impacts of the proposed project, which consists of potential modifications to Reclamation's existing water right permits to provide appropriate protection of downstream water rights and public trust resources on the Santa Ynez River. The FEIR identifies feasible mitigation measures to reduce most impacts to a less than significant level and identifies some impacts which cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level. A statement of overriding considerations will be considered in a separate item before the State Water Board as part of the proposed order amending Reclamation's water right permits for the Cachuma Project.

The FEIR was prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and was released on December 8, 2011, in accordance with CEQA requirements. (Pub. Resources Code § 21092.5.) Certification of the FEIR is required before the State Water Board can adopt a decision approving the proposed project.

**POLICY ISSUE**

Should the State Water Board adopt the proposed resolution certifying the FEIR for the proposed project?

**FISCAL IMPACT**

This activity is budgeted within existing resources and no additional fiscal demands will occur as a result of approving this item.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the State Water Board adopt the proposed resolution.